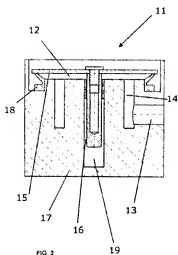


REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the amendments made in Applicant's previous response, alleging that the feature that the valve disk and pin are jointly lifted and jointly descend is not supported by Applicant's original disclosure. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The application as originally filed specifically discloses the valve disk and the pin of the pressure relief valve moving in unison both when ascending and descending. Without being mentioned explicitly this is evident from Figure 2 of the application in view of the specification and the claims as originally filed.

Figure 2 shows the structural details of pressure relief valve 11, which embodies the claimed features:



According to the specification, the reference numeral 15 is assigned to the valve disk, and the reference numeral 16 to the pin of the pressure relief valve 11 (specification, page 4, lines 5-6).

It is clear from Figure 2 that the valve disk 15 and the pin 16 are connected to each other by a connecting screw, thus forming a unitary assembly. In addition, the claims as originally filed expressly teach that the valve disk is attached to the pin (original claim 4).

The specification discloses that the valve disk is “movably disposed” and that the pin is “movably located within a chamber of the pressure relief valve” (specification, page 2, lines 5-6), i.e. both the valve disk and the pin are able to move.

In view of their above-described connection, it is obvious that the valve disk and the pin can only move in unison.

Consequently, when “the valve disk 15 is lifted from the seal 18” (specification, page 4, line 16) due to the gas pressure within the beam guiding chamber being above the critical pressure, the pin is necessarily lifted too. Thus, Applicant's disclosure as filed clearly supports the claim language “the valve disk and the pin attached thereto are jointly lifted” (cf. claims 1 and 7 as amended in Applicant's previous response).

When the valve disk returns from its lifted position due to a reduction of the system pressure (specification, page 4, line 16), i.e. when the valve disk descends, the pin must also descend, since the two parts are connected. Accordingly, “the valve disk and the pin jointly descend from their lifted position” (cf. claims 1 and 7).

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim language introduced in Applicant's previous amendment is fully supported by Applicant's original disclosure, and requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-17 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Shioji combined with Riedlinger. Claims 6 and 9 remain rejected as obvious over these references further combined with Weick. The Examiner has indicated that these rejections have been maintained due to the Examiner's concern regarding new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider Applicant's arguments regarding this rejection, reproduced below, in view of Applicant's statements above concerning support for the amendments.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendments made in Applicant's previous response. None of the art of record teaches or suggests the claimed combination of features. Riedlinger, the only reference that provides any details regarding valve structure, describes valves in which fixed pins 13, 14 are “integrally

formed" with an intermediate cover 7 in the case of the inlet valve 9 and with the end cover 8 in the case of the outlet valve 10 (Riedlinger, col. 4, lines 27-36 and FIGS. 1, 2). Consequently, only a peripheral area of each valve disk is reciprocating when Riedlinger's valves are opened or closed (col. 4, lines 42-45). Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of a valve disk and pin that move jointly in the manner recited in Applicant's amended claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and all claims allowed.

It is believed that no fees are due with this submission. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 15540-0010001.

Respectfully submitted,

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